Middlebury
Special Collections & Archives

C-45 Levi Parsons letters, journals, and other material

1820/05/28
Mrs. Lucretia L. Morton
Care of the Rev. Daniel O. Morton
Shoreham, Vermont
{Archipelago} Scio, May 28 1820

[First paragraph crossed out]

I think after this morning, of my dearest, and only surviving sister Morton. Very probably, this is a line of trail, of danger, & of great solitude, &, it may be, that a holy Providence will remove her from the world. How can I be indifferent? I will not cease to implore for her divine consolations, & to commend her again & again, to the compassion of him who knoweth our infirmities, & remembereth that we are dust. And while I wait, in painful suspense, to hear of her beloved family, it shall be the imployment [sic]of every day [I] prepare my mind for an entire resignation to the will of God.

[Note] Omis [sic] this letter

My dear Sister, we should not complain that we are to be so far separated while we tabernacle in the flesh. The reasons for this may now be concealed in thick darkness, "yet Go is his own Interpreter, & he can make it plain." My mind, you well know, is never more at rest than in the society of Friends; & I sometimes ame astonished at my own resolution to forsake those whom I so tenderly loved. I cannot myself determine the design of this -- Every thing before me is darkness except the promise [cut off]

"Lo I am with you alway [sic] even to the end of the world."

I say all is darkness -- not that any thing new has occurred to obscure our prospects -- it was darkness when I first engaged to enter into this field. -- It was darkness when I embarked from America, & it is still darkness How long the night will continue, or whether I shall ever see the day dawning is known only to Him who doeth all his pleasure.

My situation upon this island is quite peculiar. I know ~~of~~ no person; (Br. Fisk excepted) in this city, & ~~of~~ but one person within sixty miles of me who speaks the English language. There is no

preaching in any language which we can hear upon the sabbath -- we enjoy no privileges of religious conversation, & friendly admonition. We are literally strangers in a strange land --

Do you inquire respecting my feelings in this retired situation? I can say, thus far the Lord hath comforted me. I anticipated all this many years before; yea, I contemplated far greater afflictions, & deprivations. It is true that a missionary life is a life of self denial, (none but missionaries understand this,) yet it has many peculiar and important advantages. Some of these advantages I have, in some degree, realised -- such as retirement from the bustle & confusion of the world, and a constant view of death as a near event. Since I left America, I have been favo^u^red with many precious seasons of retirement, & of self examination. I have had occasion to think of death & of a future state, & God in his great mercy hath given me some desires to Depart, & be with Christ -- Even if an early death should remove me from the field of labo^u^r, I could not regret this undertaking. The tendency of all these deprivations will be, if sanctified, to unite the soul to its final rest. It gives me joy to think in a very short time, I may be permitted to sit down in the Paradise of God -- in company with my Br. [Brother] & Sister Morton, my beloved Parents, & numerous Christian Friends.

Now my Sister I must give you the parting hand -- may your soul, & the souls of your dear little ones be bound up in the bundle of life -- the Lord bless thee & keep thee -- the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, & give thee peace.

With great affection

~~June 5 1820~~ Your absent Brother Levi

~~My dear Brother Morton, I wrote the above without~~ [rest of note crossed out more lightly] expecting an opportunity to send it till Fall. But yesterday the arrival of an Amer. Vessel ^at Smyrna^ was announced & I have not time to write on this letter, for the packet must be sent to Smyrna in the morning -- you my Brother will excuse this -- My health is pretty good. The heat of the climate oppresses me. The Ther [thermometer] stands night & day between 80° & 90°. O for one refreshing night -- But no -- all is well -- The college in Scio is large & celebrated -- a number of large stone buildings -- a large library -- a President whose salary is about 800 dollars -- number of Professors -- 500 students or more -- from different parts of the country -- lectures are delivered on Chemistry almost every day -- Our instructor is the President of the College. He is very faithful to us, & gives us no time to play -- however if the heat continues the American clas may rebel -- He [----] never gives uin a more enviable situation as to study. We hope the God designs good to our religion by this favoring us -- but it is not in mar[---] to direct his steps.

P.S.

I need not repeat the request, that many prayers may be made for me -- Never have I prayed so much for you, & for our family & people as since I left America --

Love to W. Hunt & family to W.F. Mr Chissman [?] & family -- Mr. Hunt & family Mr. &c &c [ect.]

Do write often. Send letters to Lcr. Evarts Boston or to Dr. Hooker Mid.